

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 COME-00

TRSE-00 AGRE-00 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02

USIA-15 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02

SIL-01 STR-04 CIEP-02 CEA-01 INRE-00 /101 R

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EUR/RPE:ECASEY (SUBSTANCE)

COMMERCE:RHUMBERT (SUBSTANCE)

TREAS:BBENTON (SUBSTANCE)

EA/IMS:WSHEPERD (SUBSTANCE)

EUR/SOV:JTREICHEL (SUBSTANCE)

:A/TB:LROCKE (SUBSTANCE)

EA/IMS:RDORNHEIM (SUBSTANCE)

EA/EP:RIMUS (SUBSTANCE)

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USMISSION GENEVA

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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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TAGS: EMIN, IRSG

SUBJECT: IRSG ROLE IN UNCTAD RUBBER CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) LONDON 17322; (B) LONDON 16737; (C) LONDON 15941;
(D) STATE 244298; (E) STATE 261804

1. BACKGROUND. THE USG HAS CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL RUBBER STUDY GROUP (IRSG) SHOULD PLAY A KEY ROLE IN ANY INTERNATIONAL RUBBER CONSULTATIONS THAT ARISE FROM THE UNCTAD IV RESOLUTION ON THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM. AT THE JUNE 1976 PLENARY MEETING OF THE IRSG IN LONDON, THE US DELEGATE SUGGESTED THAT IRSG OUGHT TO BE THE FORUM FOR THOSE CONSULTATIONS. INDUSTRIAL COUNTRY CONSUMERS GENERALLY VOICED SUPPORT FOR THIS CONCEPT, AND WHILE THE MAJOR NATURAL RUBBER PRODUCERS DID NOT EXPRESSLY APPROVE IT, THEY ALSO DID NOT REJECT THE IDEA.

2. UNCTAD RESOLUTION 93(IV), IN THE SECTION CONCERNING PROCEDURES AND TIMETABLE FOR THE COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS (PARA 6), STATED: QUOTE. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD IS REQUESTED TO UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SERVICING OF THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND THE SUBSEQUENT COMMODITY NEGOTIATING CONFERENCES, IN COOPERATION WITH THE SECRETARIATS OF THE SPECIALIZED COMMODITY BODIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED. UNQUOTE. IN ITS RESERVATION, THE US ASSERTED ITS QUOTE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN CONVENING PREPARATORY MEETINGS WILL UTILIZE EXISTING COMMODITY BODIES. UNQUOTE. THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT HAS PROCEEDED TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR A PREPARATORY RUBBER CONSULTATION IN GENEVA, JANUARY 17-21, 1977, UNDER ITS AUSPICES. AS NOTED ABOVE, THE USG WOULD PREFER AN IRSG-SPONSORED CONFERENCE, WITH PARTICIPATION FROM THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT, BUT LACKING ACTIVE SUPPORT OF BOTH MAJOR PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS WE HAVE NOT PRESSED THIS ISSUE.

3. THE USG CONTINUES TO BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT IRSG SHOULD PERFORM AN IMPORTANT FUNCTION AT THE PLANNED RUBBER CONSULTATIONS. AS THE ONLY PRODUCER-CONSUMER RUBBER ORGANIZATION (COMPOSED OF 31 MEMBER NATIONS), IRSG HAS LONG SERVED AS A FORUM FOR REGULAR DISCUSSIONS OF RUBBER MARKET CONDITIONS,
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IN ADDITION TO BEING A REPOSITORY OF EXTENSIVE STATISTICAL INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE ON THE RUBBER INDUSTRY. FURTHERMORE, IRSG'S CURRENT SECRETARY-GENERAL, DR. LEWIS BATEMAN, IS HIGHLY REGARDED BY BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS AS A LEADING RUBBER EXPERT IN HIS OWN RIGHT.

4. MEETING OCTOBER 4, THE IRSG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INSTRUCTED BATEMAN TO GO TO GENEVA TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE

UNCTAD SECRETARIAT ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE JANUARY 1977 RUBBER CONSULTATIONS. ALL PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT IRSG COULD MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNCTAD CONSULTATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED VARIOUS SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS, IT DECIDED TO DEFER ACTION PENDING RESULTS OF BATEMAN'S VISIT TO GENEVA. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGREED TO RECONVENE NOVEMBER 2 IN LONDON TO HEAR BATEMAN'S TRIP REPORT AND CONSIDER FURTHER STEPS TO INSURE AN IRSG ROLE IN THE UNCTAD CONSULTATIONS.

5. ACCORDING TO REFTEL A, BATEMAN IS EXPECTED TO INFORM THE NOVEMBER 2 MEETING THAT THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT DOES NOT ENVISAGE AT THIS TIME ANY ROLE FOR THE IRSG OTHER THAN A BACKSTAGE ONE, TO PROVIDE ADVICE WHEN ASKED FOR. UNCTAD OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY TOLD BATEMAN THAT SHOULD WORKING GROUP EMERGE FROM THE JANUARY CONSULTATIONS, THEY EXPECTED IT TO REMAIN FIRMLY WITHIN THE UNCTAD ORBIT, AS IS THE RECENTLY FORMED COPPER EXPERT GROUP.

6. NOVEMBER 2 IRSG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. ASSUMING BATEMAN DELIVERS A REPORT ALONG THE LINES DESCRIBED IN REFTEL A, THE US DELEGATE PLANS TO EXPRESS SERIOUS DISSATISFACTION WITH THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT'S APPARENT EXCLUSION OF IRSG FROM AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE JANUARY CONSULTATIONS. OUR OBJECTIVES ON NOV 2 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) SEEK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGREEMENT ON A LETTER TO THE UNCTAD SECRETARY-GENERAL EXPRESSING A CONSENSUS THAT IRSG SHOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE FORTHCOMING PREPARATORY RUBBER CONSULTATIONS IN GENEVA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTENT OF UNCTAD RESOLUTION 93(IV). THE LETTER WOULD RECOMMEND SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS FOR THE IRSG SECRETARIAT, SUCH AS ASSISTING THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT IN PREPARATION OF AGENDA AND PAPERS FOR THE JANUARY MEETING, AND SEATING BATEMAN ON UNCLASSIFIED

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THE PLATFORM AS A FRIEND OF THE MEETING CHAIRMAN, WITH AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DELIBERATIONS.

(B) SEEK AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION STATING THAT IN THE EVENT THAT THE JANUARY CONSULTATIONS DECIDE TO FORM AN EXPERT WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE RUBBER MARKET, THE IRSG SHOULD BE DESIGNATED AS THAT BODY.

7. ACTION REQUESTED. HOST GOVERNMENTS OF ACTION ADDRESSEES SIT ON IRSG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE NOVEMBER 2 MEETING IN LONDON. IF TIME PERMITS, REQUEST ACTION ADDRESSEES INFORMALLY APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENT PRIOR NOV 2 TO REEMPHASIZE USG VIEW ON IRSG ROLE IN UNCTAD RUBBER CONSULTATIONS, TO INFORM THEM OF USG OBJECTIVES AT NOVEMBER 2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING,

AND TO ASK FOR THEIR SUPPORT. POSTS SHOULD DRAW UPON THIS CABLE IN THEIR REPRESENTATIONS, NOTING IN ADDITION THAT ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVE AGREED ON PRINCIPAL OF INSURING PROMINENT IRSG ROLE IN GENEVA CONSULTATIONS (SEE REFTEL C).

8. FOR KUALA LUMPUR: AS NOTED IN REFTEL E, LEW SIP HON, MALAYSIA'S LEADING RUBBER OFFICIAL, RECENTLY TOLD EB ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ THAT HE BELIEVED IRSG HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN UNCTAD RUBBER CONSULTATIONS.

9. FOR LONDON: REQUEST THIGPEN APPROACH LONDON REPRESENTATIVES ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THEM OF US POSITION ABOVE.

10. FOR MOSCOW: AT OCTOBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, SOVIET DELEGATE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING HOSTING IRSG PLENARY MEETING IN SEPTEMBER 1977. KISSINGER

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